



# Monitoring Drought Conditions in the Navajo Nation Using NASA Earth Observations

*NASA DEVELOP Climate project*



Vickie Ly

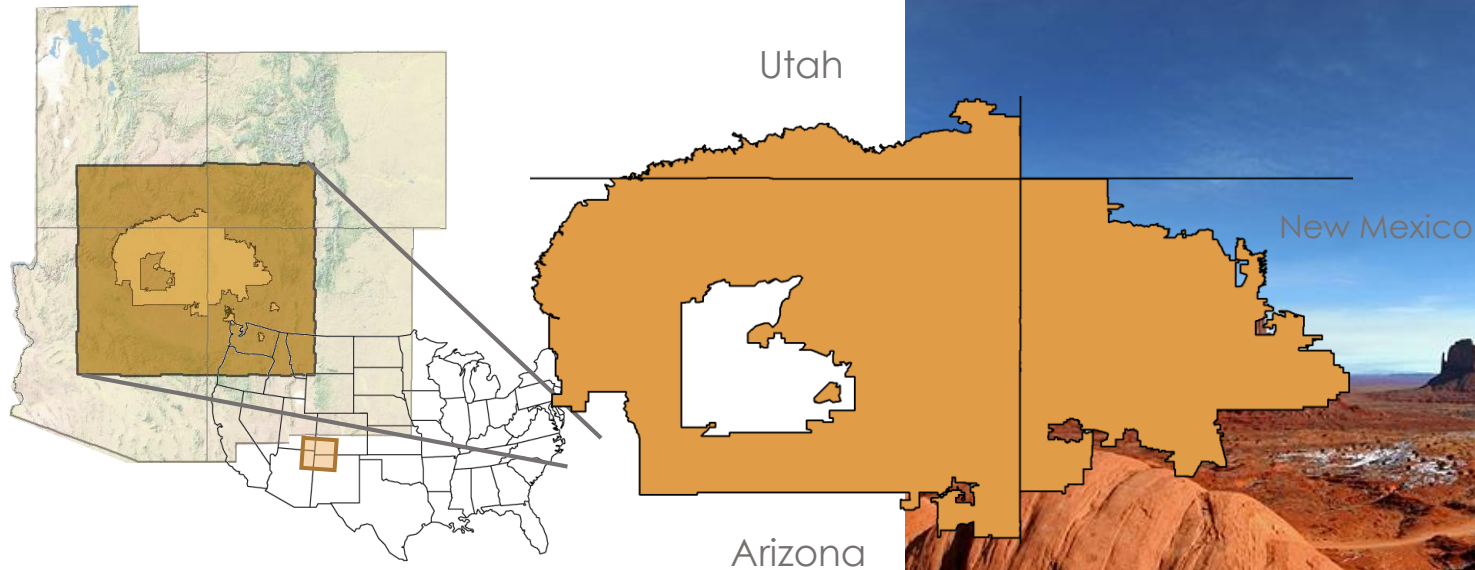
Michael Gao

Cheryl Cary

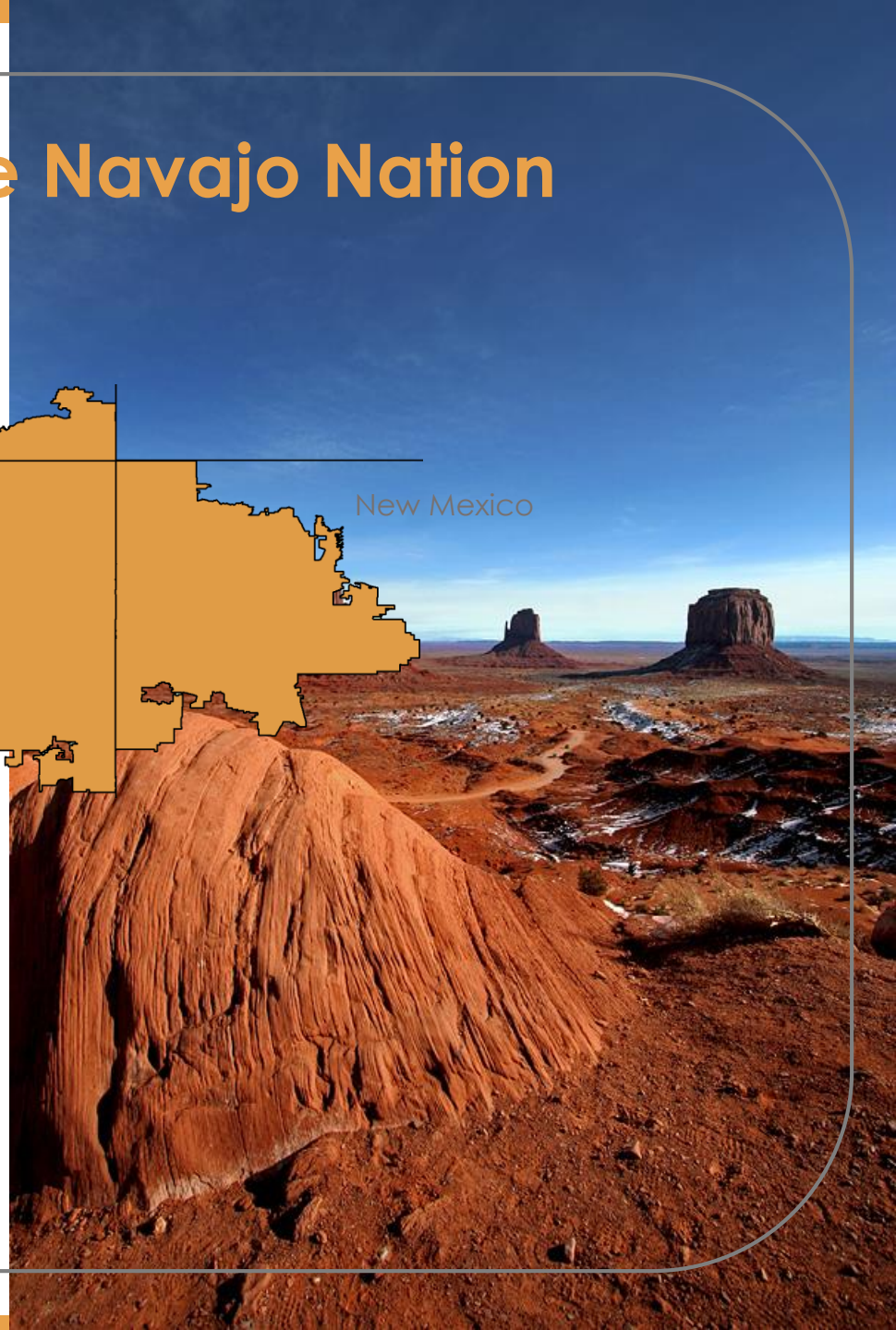
Sophie Turnbull-Appell

Anton Surunis

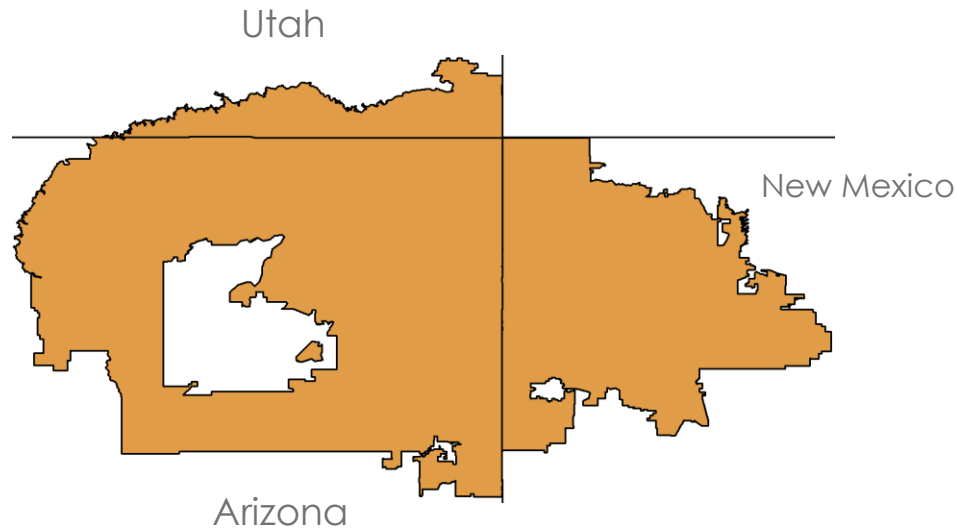
# The Navajo Nation



- 12 EPA lvl. IV Ecoregions
- Semi-arid highlands
- Forested Mountains



# Drought in the Navajo Nation



**Decreasing  
Precipitation**



**70,000+ residents  
without water**



**Increasing  
Temperatures**

# Objectives

NASA DEVELOP & Navajo Nation  
Five Agencies

Utah

Term 1

**Spatially-  
inaccurate  
climate data**

Standard

SP Precipitation Index

$\sigma$

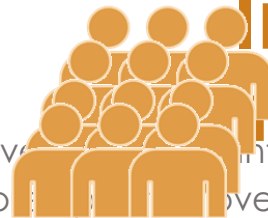
Three Climate Divisions

Arizona



**Decreasing  
Precipitation**

$XI$  = accumulated precipitation over months of interest  
 $\bar{X}$  = historical avg. accumulated precipitation over months of interest  
 $\sigma$  = standard deviation



**70,000+ residents  
without water**

**Inadequate  
rain gauge  
coverage**



**Increasing  
Temperatures**

# Tool Data: Accumulated Monthly Precipitation

NASA DEVELOP & Navajo Nation

Historical  
Geodatabase

SPI  
Methods

Tool

Term 1

Term 2

1901

Produces an average  
SPI over an user  
specified area

Compare drought  
intensity over time

2014

# Tool Data: Accumulated Monthly Precipitation



PRISM

Parameter-elevation Relationships  
on Independent Slopes Model



TRMM

Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission  
Global Precipitation  
Measurement

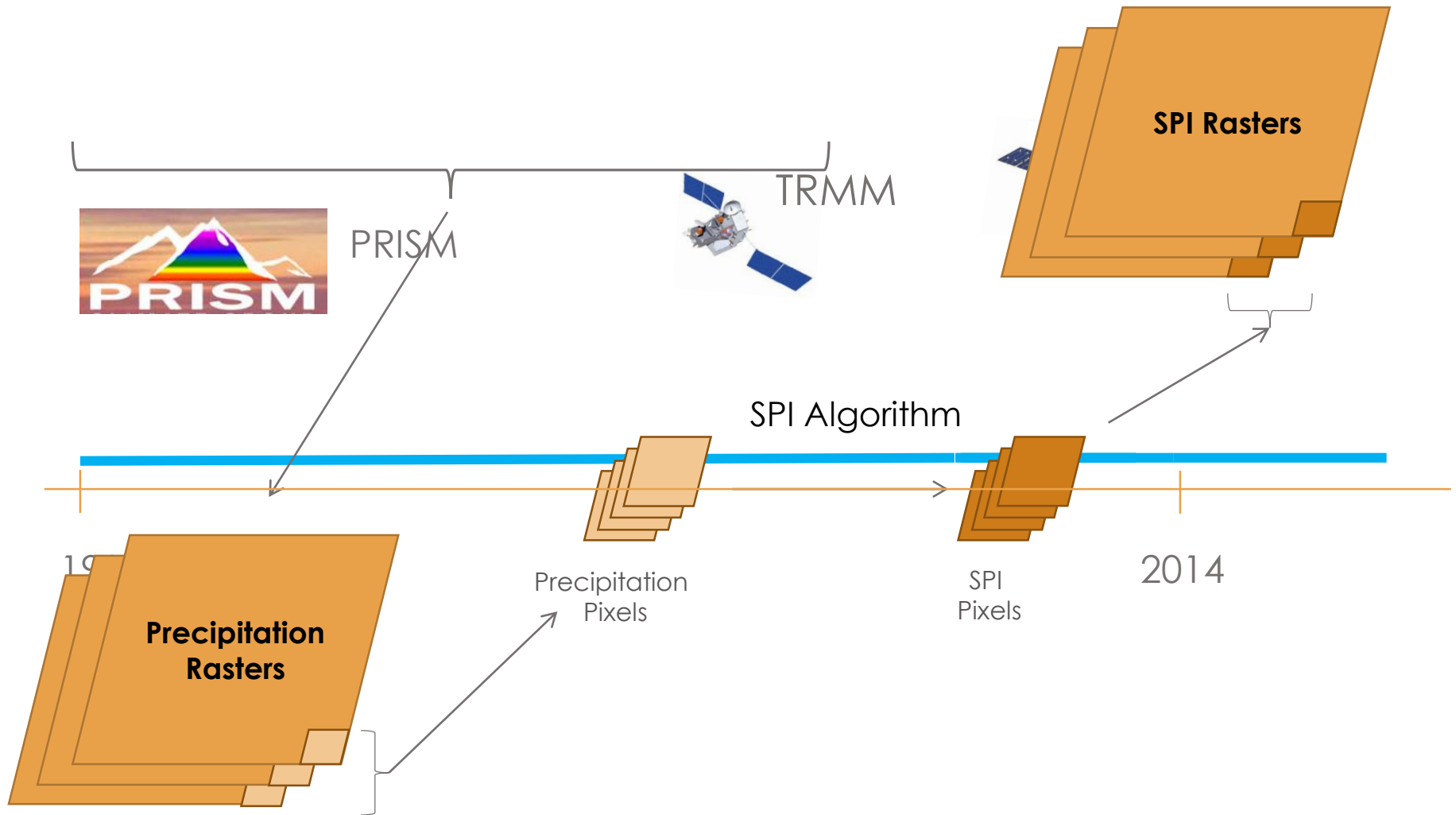


GPM

1901

2014

# Tool Data: Accumulated Monthly Precipitation





Chrome File Edit View History Bookmarks People Window Help

NASA DEVELOP : Navajo x

127.0.0.1:5787

NASA DEVELOP : NAVAJO NATION CLIMATE Introduction Process Data Visualize

# Drought Severity Assessment

## Decision Support Tool

User's Manual

### SPI Rasters

### NASA DEVELOP Program

The NASA DEVELOP Climate Team at the Ames Research Center created this tool during the summer of 2015. The five group members are Cheryl (Team Leader), Michael, Anton, Vickie, Sophia. We are all pretty cool.

### Tools

This project was the conclusion of a two-term project focusing on water resources in the NN and the role of NASA Earth Observations data in water management and drought mitigation. This term focused on creating an SPI tool in the statistical program R to allow the NN to generate SPI values specific to chosen boundaries within the Nation.

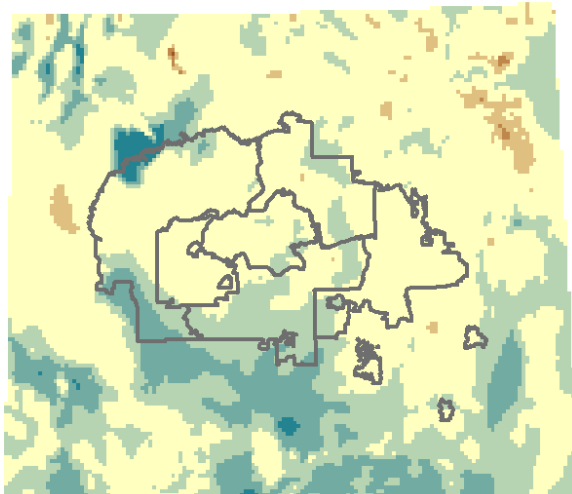
### Acknowledgements

Thanks to Ramsey Seweingyawma of the Navajo Technical University for communication and coordination of incoming Navajo Technical University students, to Maurice Upshaw, Robert Kirk, Teresa Showa and Jason John of the Navajo Department of Water Resources: Water Management Branch for providing project guidance and Navajo Nation in-situ GIS data.

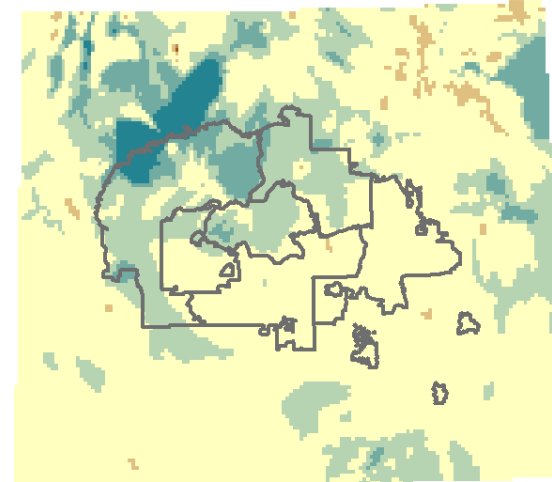
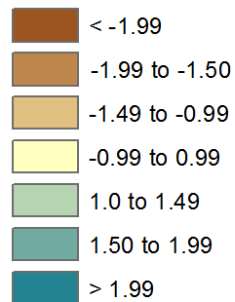


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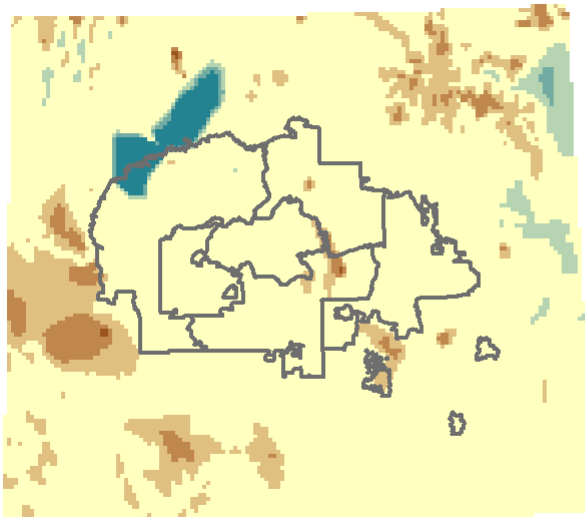
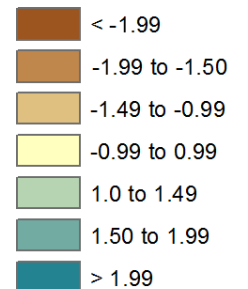
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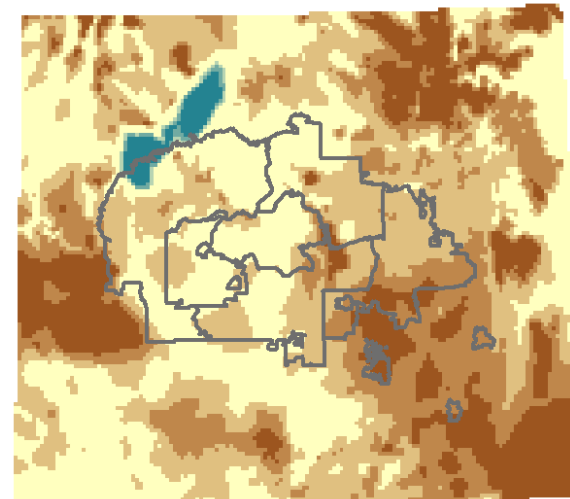
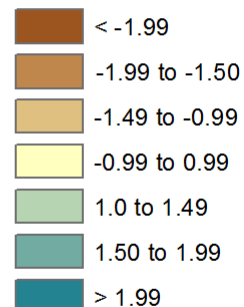
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**SPI Value**



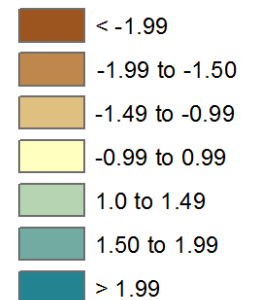
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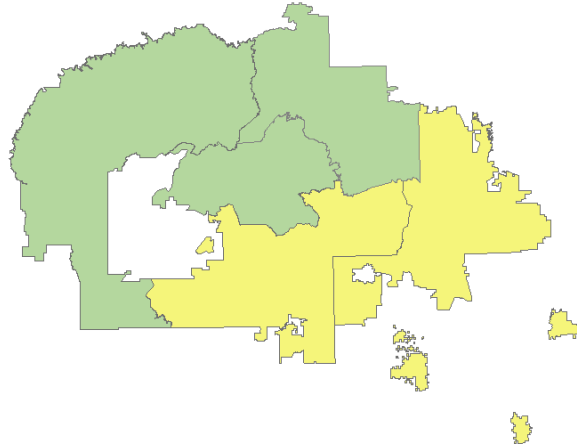


**March 2014**  
**SPI Value**

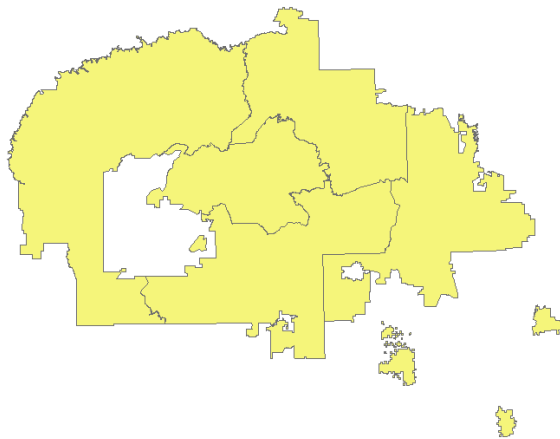


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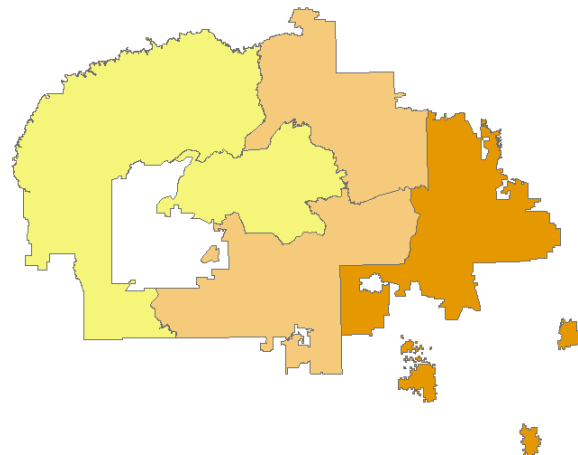
## *by Agency*



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**Agency SPI Values**



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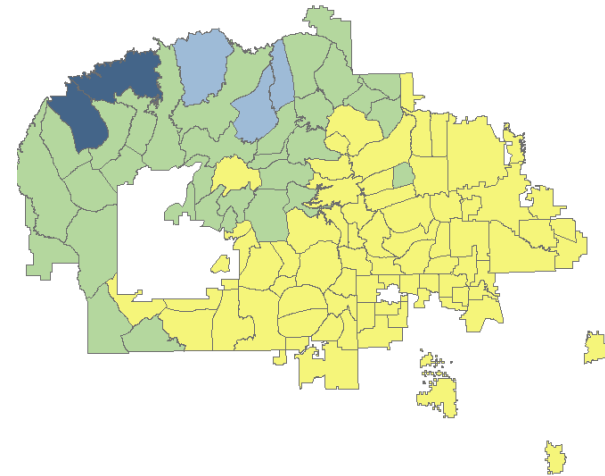


# Results of Tool

## *by Chapter*

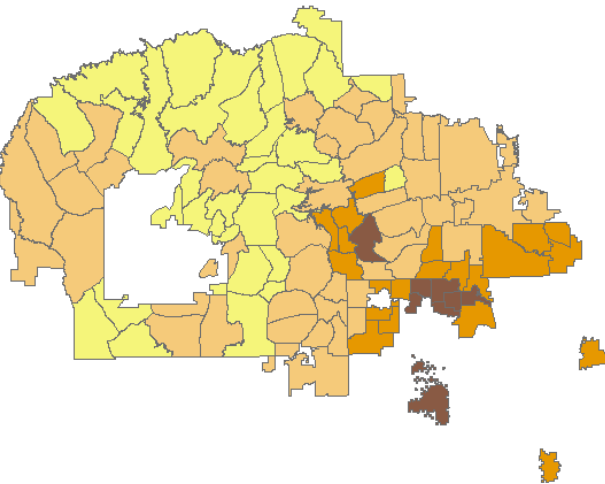
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**Chapter SPI Values**



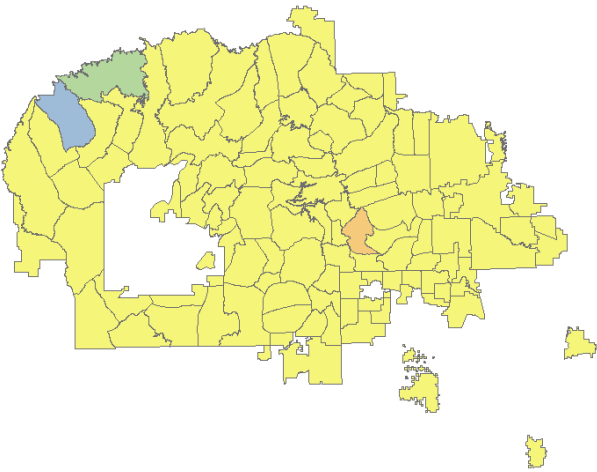
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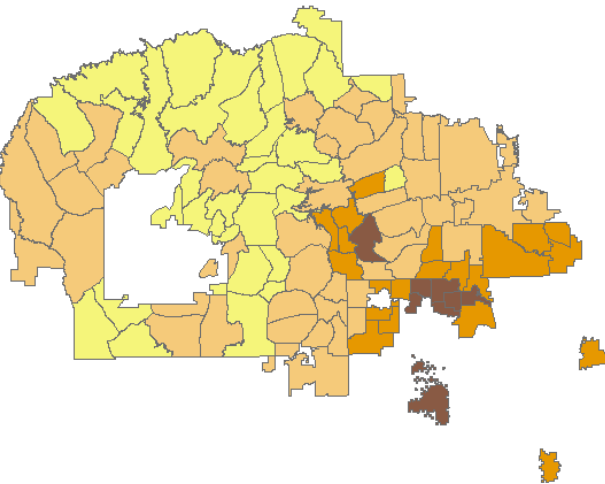
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**Chapter SPI Values**



**March 2014**

**Chapter SPI Values**



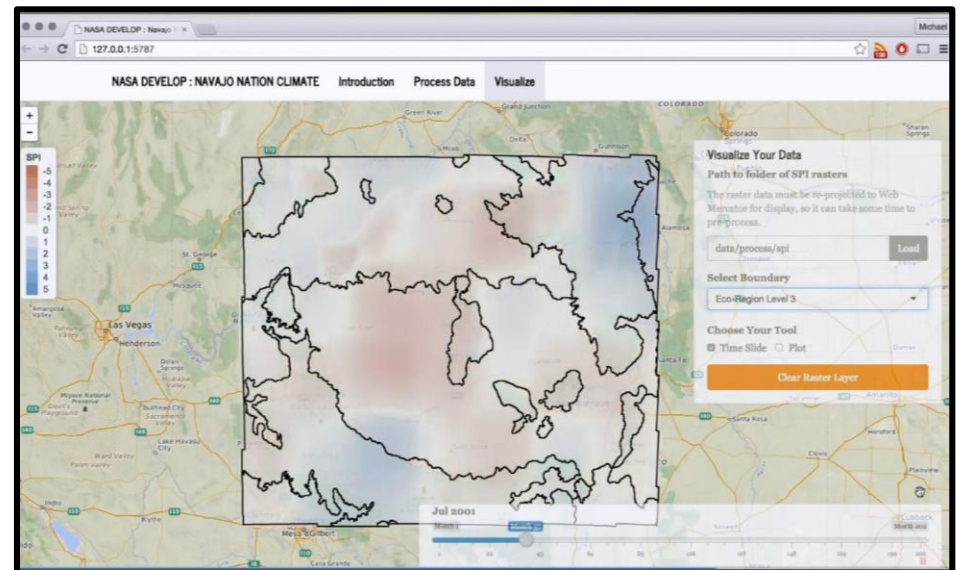
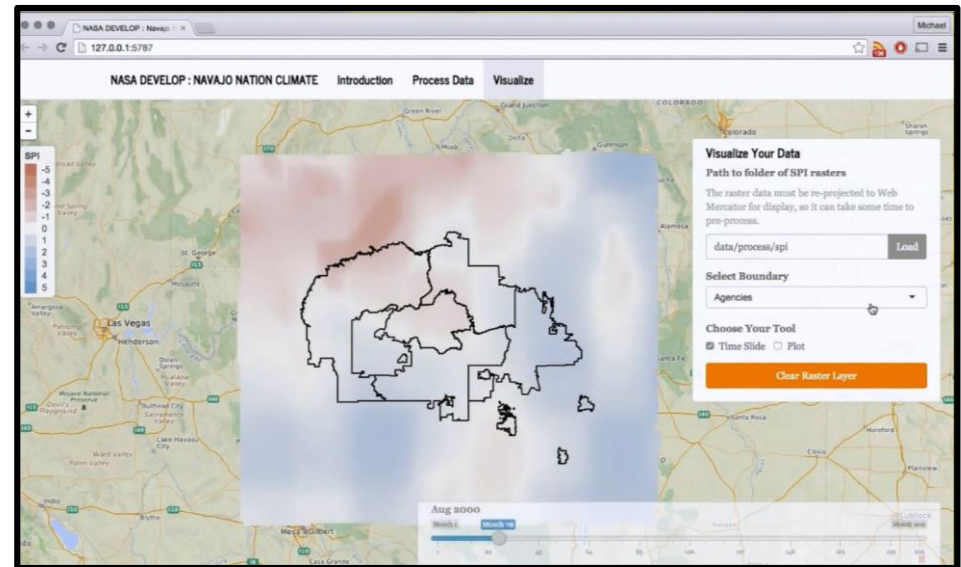


# Recap

Using data from 3 different sources

# Benefits of Research

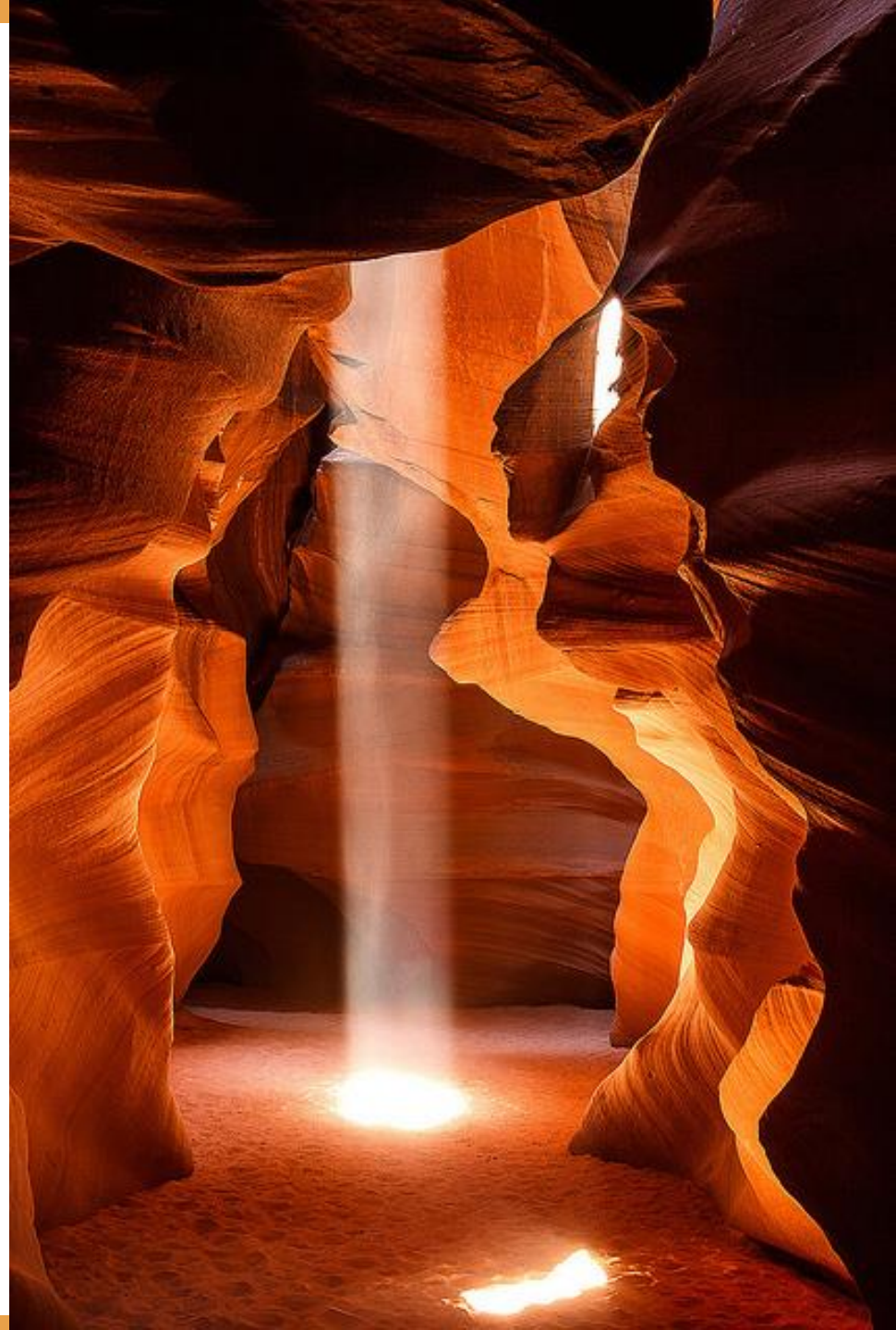
- **Calculate SPI-specific** to the Navajo Nation
- **Produce monthly drought reports** with current and historical data
- **Allocate drought dollars** in most impacted areas





# Future Work

- **Continue** building partnerships with Navajo Nation
- **Applications** to other tribal and rural communities
- **Understanding drought** regime changes



# Acknowledgements

## Advisors

Dr. Jay W. Skiles, NASA Ames

Dr. Venkat Lakshmi, University of South Carolina

Dr. Juan Torres-Peres, NASA Ames

## Partners

### **Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources: Water Management Branch**

Teresa Showa :: Robert Kirk :: Maurice Upshaw

Crystal Lynn Tulley-Cordova :: Carl McLennan

### **Navajo Technical University**

Ramsey Seweingyawna

## DEVELOP Staff

### **NASA DEVELOP National Program**

Clayton Sodergren :: Amber Brooks :: Chippie Kislik :: Andrew Nguyen



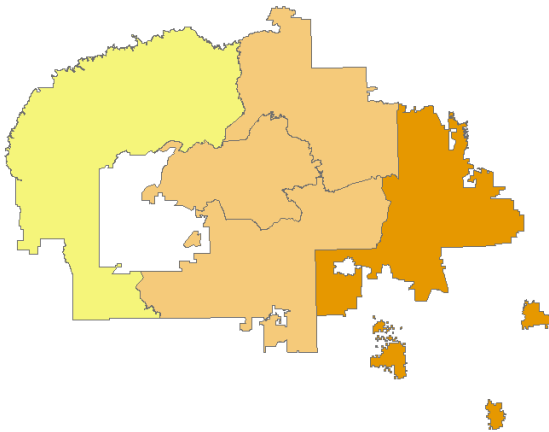
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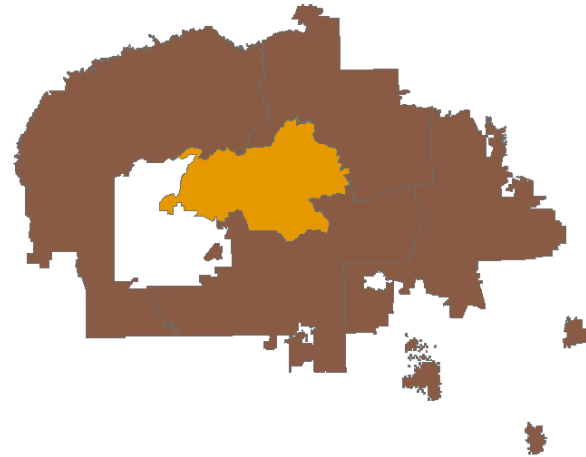
# Results of Tool

*by Agency*

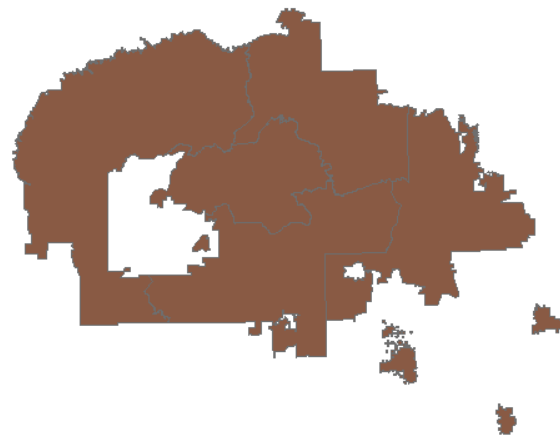
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**Agency SPI Values**



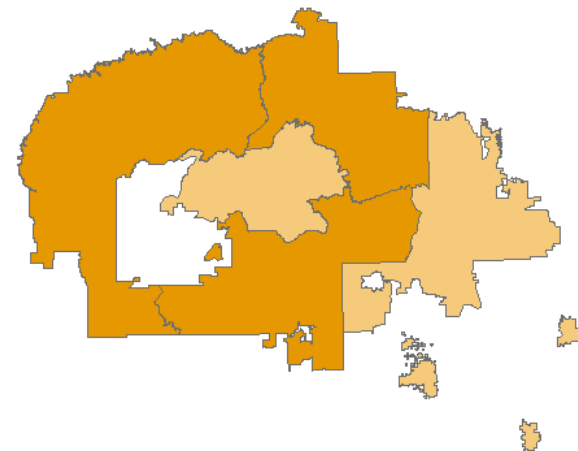
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**June 2014**  
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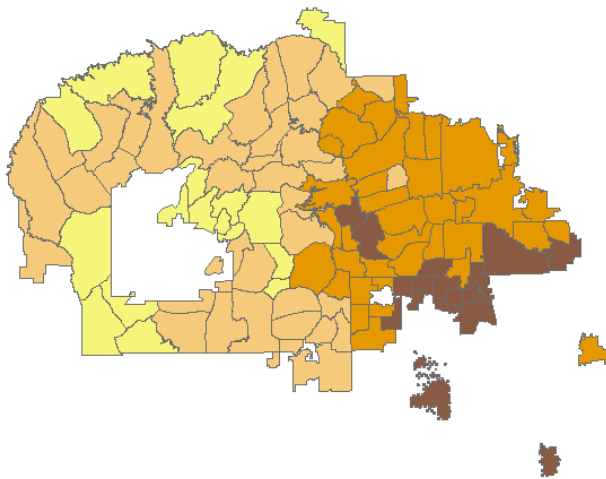


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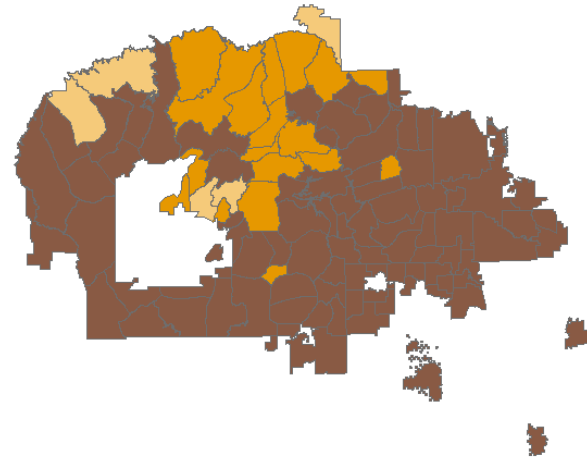
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*by Chapter*



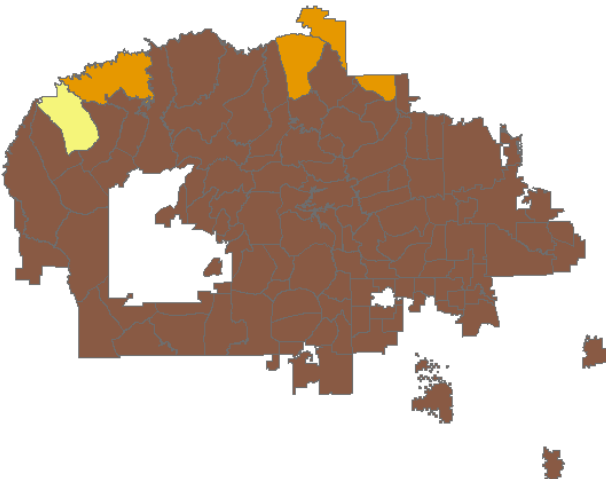
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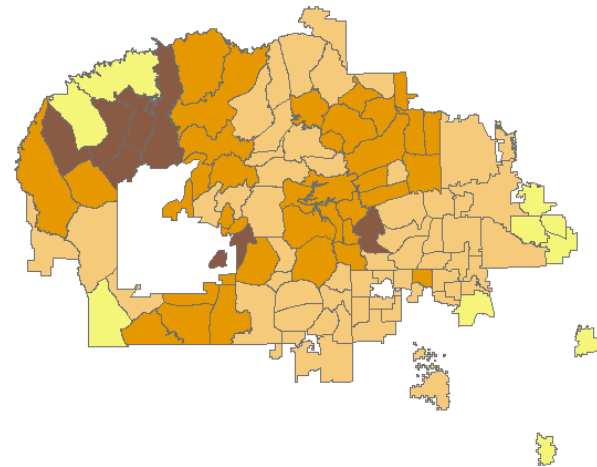
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**Chapter SPI Values**



**June 2014**

**Chapter SPI Values**



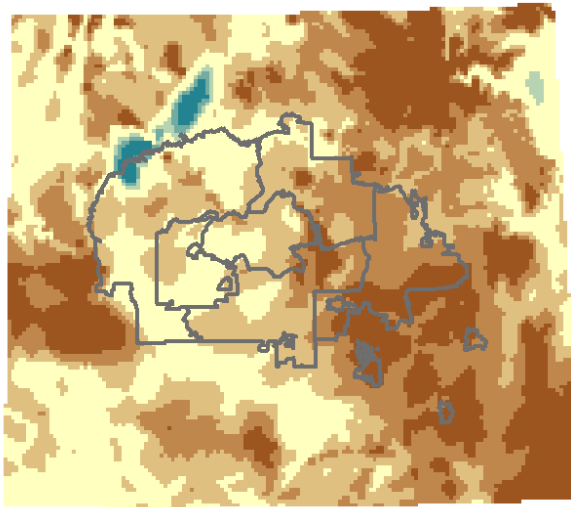
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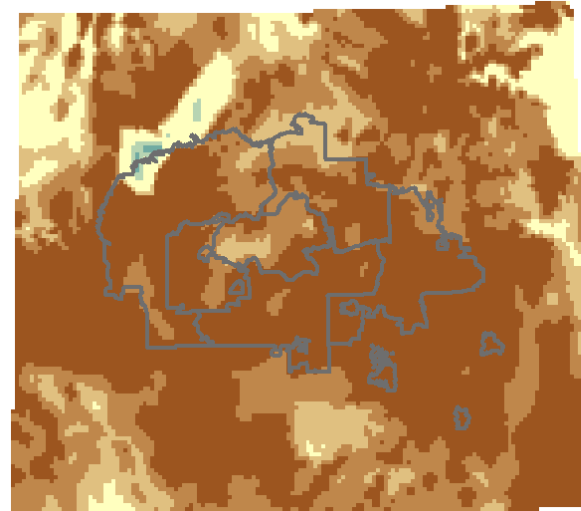
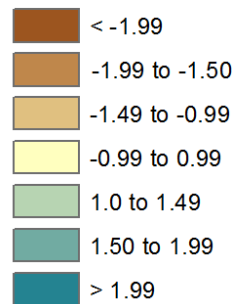


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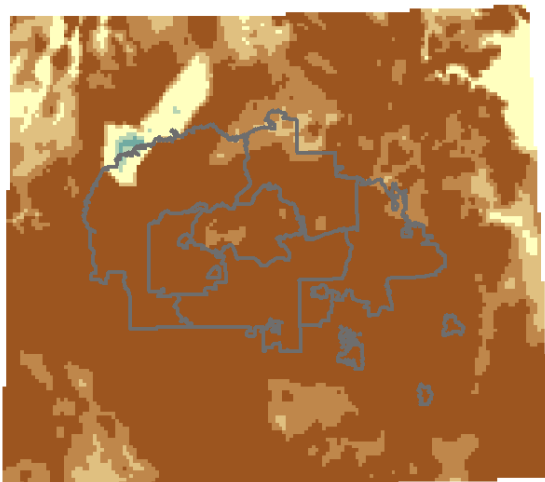
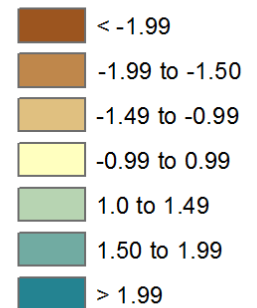
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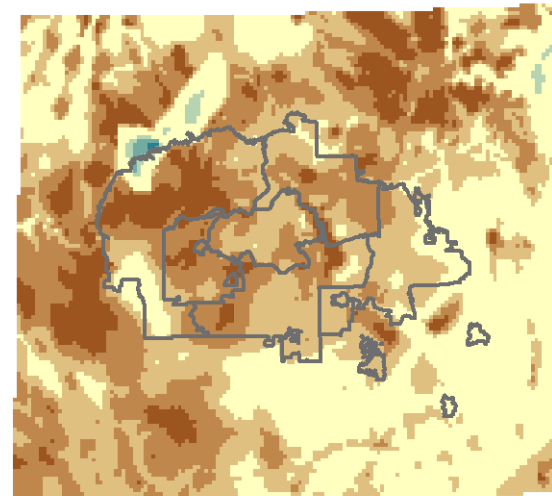
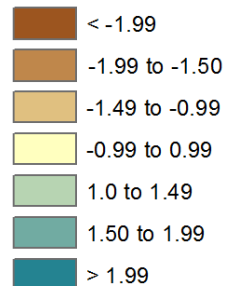
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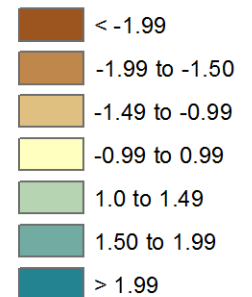
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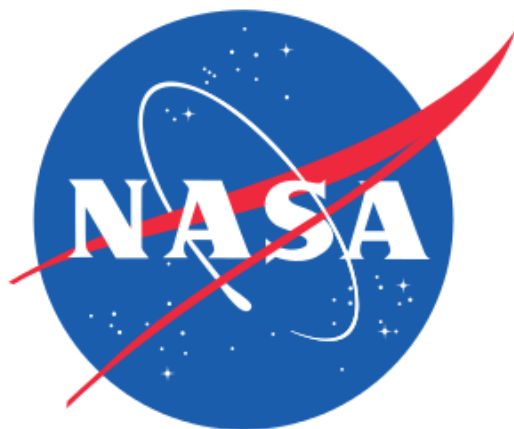
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**SPI Value**



# Navajo Nation Drought Monitoring Tool workshop

*Introducing RAINN*

Vickie Ly



Climate



Disaster



Water  
Resources



Energy



Ocean



Agriculture



# Agenda

## Introductions

### **Tool -- *Installation***

- Data
- Backend
- Frontend

### **Tool - *Testing***

- Troubleshooting
- Bugs
- Feedback





# Data

← → ↻ 🏠 <ftp://ftp.chg.ucsb.edu/pub/org/chg/products/CHIRPS-2.0/>

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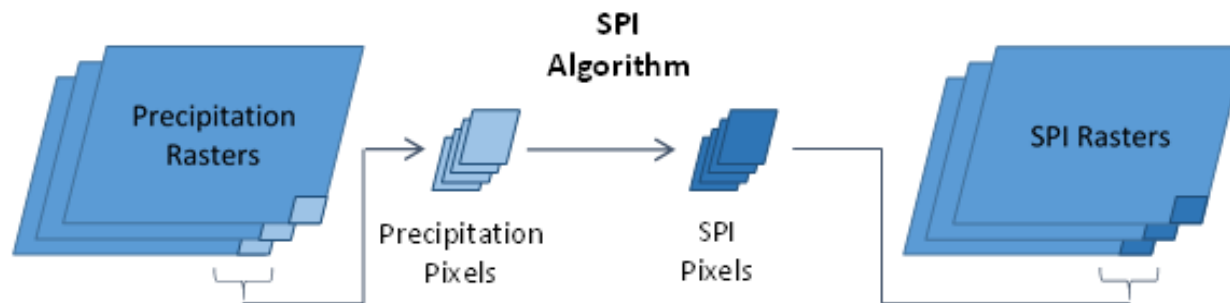
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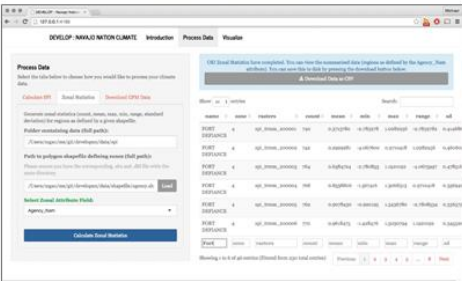
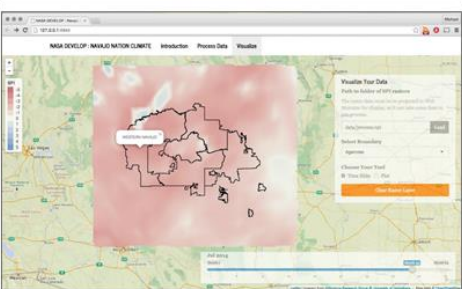
# Methodology



*Methodology workflow to calculate SPI rasters*

# RAINN

## dRought Assessment Index for monitoring precipitation

User Interface	Functions
	<p><b>Calculate SPI Values</b> Creates 6-, 12-, 18-, and 24-month SPI Rasters from a database of historical precipitation raster data.</p>
	<p><b>Calculate Summary Statistics</b> Calculates basic SPI statistics based on user-selected boundaries, as well as what percentage of a boundary is experiencing specific drought severity.</p>
	<p><b>Visualize Drought Severity</b> Allows users to view SPI rasters through time.</p>

# Let's try it!

- Make sure R 3.2.4 is installed
- Download file and save onto C drive
- Open Rstudio
- Open manual

# Installation

```
> setwd("C:/developnn")  
> require(shiny)  
> runApp()
```

# Test and Run

# Troubleshooting

- Questions?
- Bugs?
- Feedback?



# Acknowledgements

## Advisors

Dr. Venkat Lakshmi, University of South Carolina

Dr. Jay W. Skiles, NASA Ames

Dr. Juan Torres-Peres, NASA Ames

## Partners

### **Navajo Nation Department of Water Resources: Water Management Branch**

Teresa Showa :: Robert Kirk :: Maurice Upshaw

Crystal Lynn Tulley-Cordova :: Carl McLennan

### **Navajo Technical University**

Ramsey Seweingyawna

## DEVELOP

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**Thank you!**